



**Minutes of the July 21, 2004 Meeting of the  
*Commission on Men's Health*  
1:00 p.m. - Atlanta, Georgia**

Members Attending:

William M. Harper, M.D., Chairman  
Charles Braucher, Ph.D.  
Teresa Clark, M.D.  
Representative Carl Von Epps  
Stuart Fors, Ed.D.  
Senator Don Thomas  
James W. Couch, Chief, Health Improvement Programs, DCH

Members Absent:

James Bennett, M.D.  
Representative Buddy Childers, Vice-Chairman  
M. Ramzy Hajmurad, M.D.  
Ecleamus Ricks, M.P.H.

The Georgia Commission on Men's Health (CMH) held its quarterly meeting on July 21, 2004, at the Department of Community Health (DCH) in Atlanta, Georgia. Chairman Harper presided over the meeting and called it to order at 1:20 p.m. A copy of the Agenda and List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2.

Chairman Harper opened the meeting by giving a brief summary on the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Statewide Men's Health Symposium* that was held on June 16, 2004, at the Loudermilk Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He gave the audience a brief overview of the keynote speaker's presentation as well as the other presenters. There were 75 participants. There will be a follow up report available once it has been completed. The total cost of the symposium was a little under \$10,000.00. Dr. Fors asked if the symposium participants would be added to our collaborative partner list. Dr. Harper replied once the report has been completed, he sees no reason why they can't be added to the list.

Dr. Harper also mentioned his proposed statewide plan of action as a result of the Men's Health Symposium. He is calling on the Department of Human Resources' 19 District Health offices to collaborate with the Commission to plan a men's health awareness program in their areas for June 11, 2005. A planning meeting, via satellite, is planned for January with the District Health offices to strategize for the event in June. Dr. Harper called for suggestions and thoughts from Commission members. Dr. Fors asked how would the Commission follow up on the results from the District Health Offices. Dr. Harper stated that within a few days following the event, he would ask the Districts to provide a follow up report for that day's activities. Senator Thomas asked what audience will be targeted and who will we invite. Dr. Harper stated that a Commission member, district health director from the various district health offices would have to get together to determine who should be invited.

Some suggestions include the American Cancer Society, the local media, collaborative partners in their local areas, etc.

After much discussion, Dr. Harper MADE THE MOTION to approve the proposed plans for the next statewide men's health symposium to take place in June 2005. Representative Carl Von Epps SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Dr. Harper called for the approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2004 Commission on Men's Health (CMH) meeting. The Minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Dr. Harper recognized Sean Johnson for his efforts in organizing the Men's Health Symposium. He also updated members on the progress of the follow up report. The tapes are currently being transcribed by an outside agency and the final report should be ready by the next Commission meeting and will be available for the participants. Dr. Harper stated that there would be a committee meeting to wrap up the results of the Symposium and review the follow up report.

Chairman Harper asked Mr. Couch to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Couch briefed members on his request to Commissioner Tim Burgess that the Executive Director position for CMH be filled along with a secretarial position. He will update members when he knows something. He also informed members that he has been conducting several men's health presentations to several African American churches in the area.

Dr. Harper referenced a letter from the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition expressing their interest in partnering with the CMH. Dr. Harper asked Ken Stevens, with the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, in what ways would the Coalition like to collaborate with CMH. Mr. Stevens' replied that their primary goal would be making presentations, speeches, trade shows promoting prostate cancer awareness and advocacy. They would like to have the clout and benefit of the Commission behind them to help promote their agenda more efficiently. Dr. Harper stated that the mission, goals etc. of a CMH partner must be the same as the Commission's and what they support. He is not sure that some methods used by the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition to promote awareness is consistent with that of the Commission's. He then asked where does the Coalition get their resources. Mr. Stevens stated that their primary resources come from pharmaceutical companies and that their current resources are limited. Mr. Couch then recommended that Mr. Stevens contact the Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC) as a possible means for funding opportunities. Mr. Stevens accepted Jim's recommendation and will contact the GCC.

Dr. Harper opened the floor for comments and questions. At which time, Angela Horry-Beasley, with the Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness, informed Commission members about her organization and their efforts to contribute to men's health.

Dr. Harper revisited the CHAMPS issue and how they can work together with the Commission. He suggested that together, they explore other alternatives of working together instead of CHAMPS request to come under the auspices of the Commission. Dr. Jean Bonhomme, Chairman of Steering Committee for Champs, and President for the National Black Men's Health Network, stated that CHAMPS definitely wants to work with the Commission whether under the auspices of the Commission or not. Dr. Bonhomme asked for a meeting to discuss the obstacles and how to proceed or not to proceed. Mr. Couch stated that a meeting has already been held and he doesn't think anything will be resolved by the CHAMPS event scheduled for September 2004. Commission Member Dr. Fors reminded the Commission that at the last meeting, the DCH General Counsel recommended that CHAMPS not be a part of the Commission. As a result, he MADE THE MOTION that the Commission accept the recommendation made by the General Counsel that the CMH does not

establish CHAMPS under their auspices, not to rule out our interest in their work. The MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED. CHAMPS is currently registered with the Secretary of State's Office under James Couch and the Department of Community Health. Registration will be revised to show Dr. Bonhomme as the agent.

Mr. Couch asked Senator Don Thomas to update members on some of the major issues facing the 2005 Legislative Session. Senator Thomas stated that he would reintroduce his smoking ban bill again at the 2005 Legislative Session. The ban will save the Medicaid program over \$400,000 dollars. The ban will include public facilities such as restaurants. The budget will be a big issue particularly the Medicaid budget. Senator Thomas also stated he hopes to see a lot of emphasis on medical prevention efforts as well.

Mr. Couch asked the Chairman and the Commission to consider the following action: request to the DCH Commissioner, Tim Burgess, that he submits in the FY'06 budget a men's health budget of \$500,000 for staffing, contracts, etc. The Commission agreed.

Revisiting the CHAMPS issue, Dr. Harper suggested that in lieu of the proposed budget cuts, the Commission just apply for a 501.3C Status on their own instead of going through the Department of Community Health. It is imperative that the Commission seek funding from external resources in order to continue its efforts. Mr. Couch stated in order to obtain that status you must have installed officers. The Commission currently has a Chairman (Dr. William Harper); Vice-Chairman (Representative Buddy Childers); and a Secretary of Treasure is needed. Dr. Harper nominated Dr. Fors and he agreed. Members voted and approved Dr. Fors as Secretary Treasurer.

Dr. Harper suggested the next meeting be scheduled for October 13, 2004. Lynn Christian will confirm with Commission members and confirm the date at a later time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.